(b) the steps taken by Government, so far, to replace these rickshaws by better mechanized cycle-rickshaws or auto rickshaws as a measure of social justice and to prohibit men from pulling rickshaws?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) The number of hand-rickshaw pullers, State-wise, is not maintained at Central level. However, 3500 Jin-rickshaw pullers were issued license by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation during 2004-05.

(b) The Government of West Bengal have taken a policy decision to take the hand-drawn rickshaw off the roads of Kolkata in a phased manner by providing alternative modes of transport to commuters and appropriate training to pullers of hand-rickshaws.

New jobs through housing sector

3183. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 4 million new jobs are projected in the housing sector by 2015 with the demand for dwelling units likely to raise to 80 million;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been carried out in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No such study has been conducted.

Employment in rural areas

†3184. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons in the rural areas in the country alongwith the number of skilled/unskilled and educated unemployed persons amongst them; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of skilled/unskilled and educated persons provided employment by Government in rural areas during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) As per the employment and unemployment survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1999-2000 (latest), number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country on usual status basis was around 4.4 million.

Unemployment rates on usual status basis among the educated persons in the age group of 15 years and above in rural areas during 1999-2000 at all India level was 6.7%. Skill-wise details are not available.

(b) Reliable information is not available.

Agricultural Labourers

†3185. DR. FAGUNI RAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agriculture labourers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the period for which agriculture labourers get job and remain jobless in a year; and

(c) the details of the jobs, other than agriculture work available to them so they could get work throughout the year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) The State-wise details of agricultural labourers are given in the Statement. *(See* below)

(b) As per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000, about 75.1 % of the rural workers worked for 183 days or more in agriculture sector.

(c) The Government is implementing various non-agricultural employment generation programmes in rural areas which include Sampoorna Gramin RojgarYojana (SGRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), etc. Besides, these, a National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has been passed in Lok Sabha, which provides for 100 days of wage employment in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.